

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-7, 13, 14, and 20 have been rejected.

Claims 8-12 and 15-19 have been objected to.

Claim 1 has been amended as shown above.

Claims 21-23 have been added.

Claims 1-23 are now pending in this application.

Reconsideration and full allowance of Claims 1-23 are respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 8-12 and 15-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the elements of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Because the Applicants believe that the remaining claims in this application are allowable, the Applicants have not rewritten Claims 8-12 and 15-19 in independent form.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-7, 13, 14, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,861,881 to Neravetla et al. ("*Neravetla*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A prior art reference anticipates the claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 only if every element of a claimed invention is identically shown in that single reference, arranged as

they are in the claims. (*MPEP* § 2131; *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 832, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566, 1567 (*Fed. Cir.* 1990)). Anticipation is only shown where each and every limitation of the claimed invention is found in a single prior art reference. (*MPEP* § 2131; *In re Donohue*, 766 F.2d 531, 534, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (*Fed. Cir.* 1985)).

Regarding Claim 1, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that a “set of logic gates comprises no flip-flops.” The Office Action relies on elements 110, 112, 120, 130, 140, 150, 170, 171, 180, and 190 of *Neravetla* as anticipating the “set of logic gates” recited in Claim 1. Elements 170 and 171 of *Neravetla* are flip-flops. As a result, the Office Action has not established that *Neravetla* anticipates a “set of logic gates” for producing an output signal having a cycle corresponding to a predetermined number of transitions of an input signal, where the “set of logic gates comprises no flip-flops” as recited in Claim 1.

Regarding Claims 7 and 14, Claims 7 and 14 recite various steps, including “defining a number of intermediate signals,” “determining states of the intermediate signals,” and “deriving a set of logic gates” from the “determined states.” The Office Action identifies various components in the system of *Neravetla*. However, the Office Action does not attempt to establish that *Neravetla* discloses the specific steps for designing an edge counter as recited in Claims 7 and 14. As a result, the Office Action has not established that *Neravetla* anticipates the various steps recited in Claims 7 and 14. Moreover, *Neravetla* cannot be cited against Claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 because *Neravetla* and this patent application are commonly owned.

For these reasons, the Office Action does not establish that *Neravetla* anticipates the Applicants’ invention as recited in Claims 1, 7, and 14 (and their dependent claims).

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102 rejection and full allowance of Claims 1-7, 13, 14, and 20.

III. NEW CLAIMS

The Applicants have added new Claims 21-23. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully request entry and full allowance of Claims 21-23.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Applicants respectfully assert that all pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request full allowance of the claims.

SUMMARY

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *wmunck@davismunck.com*.

The Applicants have included the appropriate fee to cover the cost of this AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication (including any extension of time fees) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK, P.C.

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P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
Phone: (972) 628-3600
Fax: (972) 628-3616
E-mail: *wmunck@davismunck.com*



William A. Munck
Registration No. 39,308